# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection



Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 June 2003

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#### **Daily Overview**

- Newsday.com reports a New York Assemblyman has introduced legislation that calls for all tugboat docking pilots to be licensed, subject to medical exams, background checks, and a license renewal hearing. (See item\_5)
- Federal Computer Week reports the island of Martha's Vineyard, located about five miles off the Massachusetts coast, went live with a 311 service Monday, using a new technology that automatically routes residents' calls to their local police departments rather than to a central location. (See item <u>17</u>)
- IDG News Service reports that confidential vulnerability information managed by the CERT Coordination Center has been leaked to the public via a vulnerability discussion list. (See item\_18)

#### DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: General: DHS/IAIP Web Information

# **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: Elevated, <u>Cyber</u>: Elevated Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <a href="http://esisac.com">http://esisac.com</a>]

1. June 16, General Accounting Office — Nuclear Nonproliferation: U.S. and International Efforts to Control Sealed Radioactive Sources Need Strengthening. On Monday, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released report GAO-03-638, concerning nuclear nonproliferation and worldwide efforts to control sealed radioactive sources. The GAO was asked to determine (1) the number of sealed sources worldwide and how many have been reported lost, stolen, or abandoned; (2) the controls used by countries that possess sealed sources, and (3) the assistance provided by the Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal

agencies to strengthen other countries' control over sealed sources. The GAO recommends the Secretary of Energy (1) develop a comprehensive plan for DOE to guide its future efforts, (2) take the lead in developing a government—wide plan to strengthen controls over other countries' sealed sources, and (3) strengthen efforts to increase program expenditures in the countries requiring assistance. Highlights:

http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03638high.pdf

Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-638

2. June 15, San Jose Mercury News — Nuclear power shows signs of renaissance. The nation's moribund nuclear power industry, whose last new plant was ordered in 1973, is showing signs of awakening soon, thanks to a generous jolt of federal help and promises of more to come. Later this year, three utilities — Entergy, Exelon and Dominion Resources — will begin seeking licenses to build new nuclear plants, reviving a practice essentially abandoned in America after 1979's Three Mile Island near—meltdown. Bush administration officials and nuclear industry leaders speculate that the first new nuclear power plant will be finished around 2010, probably next to an existing nuclear generator somewhere in the Southeast. "The nuclear power industry in the United States is undergoing a renaissance," Nuclear Regulatory Commission chair Nils Diaz told Knight Ridder on Wednesday. Even with robust new federal help, however, iffy economics, worries about plant security in an age of terrorism and continuing fears about safety risks make some outside experts, especially economists, doubtful that nuclear power is ready for a comeback.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\_newsarticle1\_national.htm?SMDOCID=krdigital\_2003\_06\_15\_eng-krdigital\_eng-krdigital\_050731\_7491955858486018505a>

3. June 15, Myrtle Beach Sun News (South Carolina) — USC chosen as center for fuel cell research. The University of South Carolina (Columbia) has been designated a center for fuel cell research, positioning it and the state to be leaders in the emerging hydrogen economy. A news conference is set for Monday to formally announce that the National Science Foundation has named USC its only Industry/University Research Center for Fuel Cells in the country. "We think there is an opportunity for fuel cell research to drive a new economy for the state," said John Van Zee, the USC professor named to direct the center. There have been discussions with other schools about joining the USC center, said Alex Schwarzkopf, the National Science Foundation's lead director of the industry/university program. Ralph White, dean of USC's School of Engineering and Information Technology, likens the opportunity for Columbia to what happened in the 1980s in Austin, Texas, when the then—infant semiconductor industry reinvented that city's economy. USC has 11 industrial partners in the fuel cell research center.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\_newsarticle1\_national.htm?SMDOCID=krdigital\_2003\_06\_15\_eng-krdigital\_eng-krdigital\_045431\_772460117574834823a>

**4.** June 12, Bloomberg News — Greenspan: U.S. should expand access to foreign natural gas. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the U.S. should expand access to foreign sources of natural gas as a "safety valve" against tight supplies and rising prices that have hurt consumers and companies. "The updrift and volatility of the spot price for gas have put significant segments of the North American gas—using industry in a weakened competitive

position," Greenspan told the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Gas costs have cut "a couple of tenths off of profit margins" in certain industries, he said. The price of natural gas, which is used to run power plants, heat homes and make chemicals, will be 80 percent higher on average this year than in 2002, the U.S. Department of Energy said last week. Inventories held by utilities and commercial users on May 30 were more than a third lower than a year earlier. "Access to world natural gas supplies will require a major expansion of LNG terminal import capacity," Greenspan said. Liquid natural gas imports are "a crucial safety value in maintaining price stability." There are four liquid natural gas import terminals in the United States, accounting for only 1 percent of the nation's gas supplies in 2001, Greenspan said.

Source: <a href="http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma">http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma</a> newsarticle1 natio nal.htm?SMDOCID=bhsuper 2003 06 11 CHI 0000-6398-KEYWORD.Mis sing.ewa>

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

Nothing to report.

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# **Transportation Sector**

5. June 15, Newsday.com — License docking pilots as anti-terrorism measure. A terrorist could get hired to captain a tugboat and run amok with a ship laden with dangerous cargo because of a loophole that allows local dock pilots to operate tugs without a license, a New York assemblyman warned yesterday. Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein (D-Bronx) said 35 docking pilots are hauling huge ships in and out of the Port of New York-New Jersey without even minimal background checks. "Security is an issue post-September 11," Klein said at a press conference in Battery Park. "The weapon of choice was a plane. Let's make sure if there's a next time we don't allow terrorists to use a ship as a weapon of mass destruction." Docking pilots are charged with taking control of ships in New York metropolitan waters. Ship captains turn over control of the vessel to licensed state pilots about 15 miles from shore, and the unlicensed tug pilot guides the vessel to the dock within the final mile. Klein has introduced legislation that calls for all docking pilots to be licensed. They would be subject to medical exams, background checks and a license renewal hearing, he said. Klein has the support of Bob Pouch, the executive director of the six-person Board of

Commissioners of Pilots, which oversees state navigation laws. Source: <a href="http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/nyc-safe0616,0,252">http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/nyc-safe0616,0,252</a> 8318.story?coll=ny-nynews-headlines

6. June 14, Washington Post — TSA modifies screening plan. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has altered plans for a computerized passenger screening system, in part because of criticism that earlier proposals would have been overly intrusive, according to documents and interviews with government officials. Under the new approach, the system known as CAPPS II would draw less personal information about passengers into the government computers, the documents show. Instead, the system will rely on commercial data services that will authenticate passenger identities using mathematical models developed by the TSA and a wealth of personal details collected for marketing and business purposes. The data services will provide a coded response that the agency will then factor into a risk score that indicates whether passengers are who they claim to be and have verifiable roots in the community.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57122-2003Jun 13.html

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

7. June 16, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs & Border Protection — Italy implements the Container Security Initiative and begins to target and pre-screen cargo destined for U.S. U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner announced on Monday that the Container Security Initiative (CSI) will be operational at the port of Genoa. CBP and the government of Italy signed a declaration of principles on November 7, 2002. As part of the CSI program, CBP has deployed a team of officers to the port of Genoa to work jointly with host government personnel to target high-risk cargo containers destined for the United States. Italian government officials, working with CBP officers, are responsible for screening any containers identified as a potential terrorist risk. The port of Genoa is the 14th CSI port to become operational. On Thursday, June 12, 2003, Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner announced that CSI will be expanding to strategic locations beyond the 20 initial major ports to include areas of the middle east such as Dubai as well as Turkey and Malaysia. Most recently, the governments of Malaysia and Sweden have joined CSI. In Europe, CBP is looking to expand CSI to at least 11 additional ports to include Livorno, Gioia Tauro, and Naples.

Source: <a href="http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press">http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press</a> releas es/06162003.xml

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# **Agriculture Sector**

8. June 16, just-food.com — EU eases bird flu restrictions in the Netherlands. The European Union's (EU) Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health today agreed to re-authorize as of June 18 the export of live poultry and hatching eggs from certain parts

of the Netherlands, provided no further cases of avian influenza are recorded. Restrictions remain in place for the five provinces with surveillance zones: Flevoland, Gelderland, Limburg, Noord—Brabant, and Utrecht. No further decisions were taken for Belgium and Germany. Restrictions that were still applicable in the Belgian provinces of Antwerp and Limburg expired on June 11. They now only apply in the surveillance zones (10 km zones around the outbreaks). In Germany the restrictive measures will continue to apply in the part of North Rhine—Westphalia west of the Rhine until June 24.

Source: <a href="http://www.just-food.com/news-detail.asp?art=54427">http://www.just-food.com/news-detail.asp?art=54427</a>

9. June 16, Agriculture Online — USDA expands non-fat dry milk aid to livestock producers. More livestock producers hard hit by drought are now eligible for help under the non-fat dry milk livestock feed assistance program the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced in April. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has added seven counties in southeastern Idaho and another four counties in northwestern Utah to the list of areas eligible to receive surplus stocks of non-fat dry (NDM) milk that are out of condition. Eligible livestock include foundation herds of beef cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goats. The addition of these 11 counties commits 12 million more pounds of NDM, bringing the total to 232 million pounds of NDM designated for 10 states.

Source: <a href="http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe">http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe</a> tail ANewsindex html 50094 1

10. June 16, High Plains Journal — University of Wisconsin receives grants to study CWD. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison are getting monetary help to increase their understanding of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Three Department of Defense grants will help university researches study the disease. The researchers will work with tissue samples taken from both infected and uninfected deer to identify differences in the prion protein gene. Abnormally folded prion proteins are known to cause CWD and other similar neurological diseases, or transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, also known as TSEs. One example of a prion disease is bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. "Different forms of the prion protein have different characteristics," explained Debbie McKenzie, who is leading the first study. These differences, she said, can alter the disease's incubation period, its clinical signs, and its ability to spread to other animals or even jump the species barrier.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.hpj.com/testnewstable.cfm?type=storynt} \geq$ 

11. June 12, University of California Davis — Saving poultry genetic resources crucial for agricultural research. The loss of poultry research stock has reached crisis proportions and now threatens to inhibit advances in agricultural sciences, according to Mary Delany, an associate professor at the University of California, Davis. For more than a century, genetic research using chickens, ducks, and quail, as well as other poultry species, has provided clues to a number of scientific puzzles in basic biology, medicine, and agriculture. During the past three decades and particularly during the past five years, research collections of genetically characterized poultry lines have fallen victim to budget cutbacks, staffing shortages, and inadequate federal funding in both the agricultural and medical arenas. The researchers cite a survey conducted by the Avian Genetic Resources Task Force, which found that more than 238 poultry research stocks were eliminated just between 1984 and 1998. This represented a 40 percent loss in research stocks in the U.S. and 60

**percent in Canada.** One–of–a–kind genetic lines were dropped. Delany notes that the decline in poultry stocks is due to budget and staffing reductions at many universities and reallocations of funding away from agricultural research toward creation of new research initiatives like molecular biology and genomics.

Source: <a href="http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news">http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news</a> detail.lasso?id=6482

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### **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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#### **Public Health Sector**

12. June 16, Calgary Herald — Internet is vital in the battle against SARS. As Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) spreads beyond its initial outbreak in China, health and research organizations are applying technology to search for its cause, to identify possible diagnostic tests, and to develop potential treatments for the disease. During the SARS outbreak, medical findings are being distributed around the globe at the speed of the Internet. For example, in March 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) asked 11 laboratories to participate in a collaborative research project on SARS diagnosis. Laboratory staff share electron microscopic pictures of the coronavirus, sequences of genetic material for identification and bio-medical test results from patients. The coronavirus is widely believed to cause SARS. To help medical practitioners confirm the diagnosis of SARS, the department of diagnostic radiology and organ imaging at the Chinese University of Hong Kong has posted chest X-ray images of SARS patients at its Web site. These images are invaluable in helping medical practitioners differentiate pneumonia, which exhibits similar symptoms, from SARS. These Internet technologies make text, graphic, and video information available with a timeliness that is not possible using fax or courier. This speed enhances collaboration among medical researcher teams to accelerate the development of SARS tests and treatment.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=EDD405CF-9CF0-43E} \\ \underline{6-A94D-61ADC6E93A2C}$ 

13. June 15, Washington Post — Infections now more widespread. New infections seem to appear out of nowhere, such as Lyme disease, Ebola, and AIDS. With monkeypox coming on the heels of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which emerged not long after West Nile, it's a phenomenon that seems to be happening at an accelerating rate. "There are probably hundreds, if not thousands, maybe millions of viruses out there," said Robert G. Webster, a leading virologist at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

All the new diseases have one thing in common: Animals passed them to people. As Earth becomes more populated, people are increasingly living, farming, and hunting in previously undisturbed parts of the world. People are bringing a widening array of exotic animals out of the wild as pets, and as food. This phenomenon, coupled with the threat of bioterrorism, has triggered a surge of initiatives to try to protect against these new threats. The U.S. and the World Health Organization are trying to improve early—warning systems for infectious diseases.

Source: <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60291-2003Jun14.html?nav=hptoch">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60291-2003Jun14.html?nav=hptoch</a>

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### **Government Sector**

- 14. June 16, Federal Computer Week Diplomacy spotlights border systems. The United States is giving international diplomacy a high—tech twist, undertaking numerous technology initiatives with Canada and Mexico to improve border security. The Homeland Security Department is working closely with Canadian and Mexican agencies so the border and immigration systems that the neighboring countries use can exchange information. State and local governments along both sides of the borders also have become involved, working with one another to improve communications among public safety agencies.
  Source: <a href="http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0616/news-border-06-16-03.asp">http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0616/news-border-06-16-03.asp</a>
- 15. June 16, Puget Sound Business Journal Pilot program to plan for alerts. The federal Department of Homeland Security is making Washington state the hub of a pilot program to improve how regional government agencies and businesses communicate in the event of terrorist threats or other emergencies. The program, tentatively called the Northwest Information Sharing Network, will be administered through the Seattle headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region 10, which spans Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho. A second pilot project will be run from Atlanta. Officials and business leaders said they need to develop a way to exchange information more quickly and efficiently in a crisis. The system being planned will help vital businesses get information quickly during a terrorist attack or natural disaster, and then will enable them to transmit their own information on to related companies and organizations.

  Source: http://seattle.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories/2003/06/16/st ory1.html
- 16. June 13, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Funding report: helping our nation's first responders. On Friday, the Department of Homeland Security announced the award of nearly \$400 million dollars to ten states to help enhance response and preparedness capabilities for first responders and state and local governments. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made available more than \$4.4 billion dollars in funding for grants since March 1, 2003. State Homeland Security Grant awards announced on Friday: Texas \$78,238,000; Florida \$62,655,000; Illinois \$50,005,000; Washington \$29,971,000; Wisconsin \$27,985,000; Minnesota \$26,690,000; Louisiana \$25,037,000; Arkansas \$19,585,000; New Mexico \$16,956,000; and Maine \$15,232,000 Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=963

## **Emergency Services Sector**

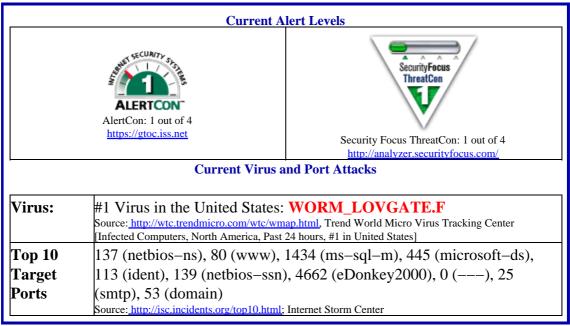
Nothing to report. Return to top

### **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

- 17. June 16, Federal Computer Week 311 service goes rural route. The island of Martha's Vineyard, located about five miles off the Massachusetts coast, went live with a 311 service Monday that would automatically direct nonemergency calls to the local police departments there. "What we have accomplished is not only to be the first 311 center in all of New England, but also be the first rural application of the 311 telephone system," said Sheriff Michael McCormack of Dukes County, which operates the 911 emergency call center for the island. McCormack said the service was needed to lighten the volume of nonemergency calls the emergency dispatch center was handling. A survey showed that 60 percent of the roughly 7,300 calls into its 911 line were of a nonemergency nature, he said. John Cohen, the police chiefs' consultant on the 311 project, said Martha's Vineyard could possibly be the first community in the country to also use technology that automatically routes a residents' calls to their local police department rather than a central location.
  - Source: http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0616/web-mv311-06-16-03.asp
- 18. June 16, IDG News Service Hacker tips CERT's hand on Linux/PDF flaw. Confidential vulnerability information managed by the CERT Coordination Center has again been leaked to the public. The latest report was posted to a vulnerability discussion list by an individual using the name "hack4life." The latest information concerns a flaw in Adobe Systems Inc.'s PDF (Portable Document Format) readers for Unix and could allow a remote attacker to trick users into executing malicious code on their machines, according to a copy of the leaked vulnerability report. The leaked information was taken from communication sent from CERT to software vendors affected by the PDF problem, according to Jeffrey Carpenter, manager of the CERT Coordination Center. The information appears to be from a vulnerability report submitted to CERT by a Cincinnati security researcher by the name of Martyn Gilmore. Adobe's Acrobat Reader 5.06 and the open-source reader Xpdf 1.01 are affected by the problem, according to the report.

Source: http://www.idg.net/ic 1321988 9677 1-5046.html

**Internet Alert Dashboard** 



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#### **General Sector**

19. June 16, Reuters — Dirty bomb material found in Tbilisi, Georgia taxi. Georgian authorities have found highly radioactive material that could be used in a "dirty" bomb and a container of lethal Mustard Gas in a taxi in the capital Tbilisi, police said on Monday. Police searched the taxi on May 31 and found two metal boxes stuffed with radioactive by-products of nuclear fission, Cesium-137 and Strontium-90. One container, inscribed in Russian and English, weighed at least 80 kg (170 lb). A separate container had Mustard Gas, or Yperite, an odourless chemical used in World War One and which can be lethal in small quantities. The taxi driver was unaware of his dangerous cargo and has been released. Two suspects are in police custody, accused of trying to take the material to the former Soviet state's Adzhara autonomous republic on the border with Turkey.

Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/AN1660939.htm

20. June 16, Associated Press — Federal prosecutors indict alleged immigrant smuggling leader in Victoria, Texas, truck deaths. In announcing the arrest of accused operation leader Karla Patricia Chavez, 25, U.S. Attorney Michael Shelby also unsealed a 58—count indictment accusing her and 13 others of having roles in the smuggling mission that ended May 14 when a truckload of immigrants was discovered in a trailer abandoned at a truck stop in Victoria, 100 miles southwest of Houston. Seventeen immigrants died at the scene, and two others died later. A group of more than 70 immigrants from Mexico, Central American and the Dominican Republic were being transported in a tractor—trailer from South Texas to Houston when they began succumbing to the stifling heat inside. The driver of the truck, Tyrone Williams, left the trailer in the early morning hours of May 14.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2003/06/16/national1221EDT0563.DTL

June 16, Associated Press — Saudis say raid prevented an imminent terror attack. The Saudi government said on Sunday that it had foiled an imminent terrorist attack with an overnight raid in Mecca on an apartment booby—trapped with explosives and that five suspects and two security agents had been killed. At least five people were arrested in the raid, including two Chadians, an Egyptian and a Saudi, a Saudi Interior Ministry official said. The unidentified official, whose remarks were carried by the official Saudi Press Agency and state television, said that after the raid a number of other suspects were arrested in Mecca, Islam's holiest city, 450 miles west of Riyadh. He did not elaborate. About 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Saudi security agents broke into an apartment in the Khalidiya district, where a group of people described by the official as terrorists "were preparing an imminent terrorist act," the official said. He did not say what the intended target was and gave no details of the alleged plot.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/16/international/middleeast/1 6SAUD.html

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#### **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web–site (<a href="http://www.nipc.gov">http://www.nipc.gov</a>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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<u>DHS/IAIP Publications</u> – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

<u>DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive</u> – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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Suggestions: 202–324–1129

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#### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at <a href="mipc.watch@fbi.gov">nipc.watch@fbi.gov</a> or call 202–323–3204.

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